(b) whether in a case in which a lapse by the bank was continuing for about three years and even when an MP drew their attention towards it, not only the lapse further continued for about eight months, the officials responded only when the MP lastly wrote to the Finance Minister; and

(c) the steps being taken to make a senior officials available from Parliament Street main branch to receive suggestions from MPs and learn their difficulties to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to information received from the State Bank of India (SBI) Local Head Office, New Delhi, Parliament House Sub-Office of SBI is functioning in the Parliament House solely to meet the banking needs of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament (MPs) and Ex-MPs. Some MPs had experienced difficulties regarding non-implementation of standing instructions. Subsequent to receipt of a complaint regarding loss of interest on account of delayed transfers of the amounts in question, SBI have recalculated the interest payable on the assumption of transfers having taken place as per standing instructions and the differential in interest has been credited to the account of the party. SBI have further reported that appropriate steps have been initiated to ensure that standing instructions are compiled with and that no delay in compliance takes place. Letters addressed to the higher officials of the New Delhi Main branch and local Sub-Office of SBI received from Hon'ble Members are normally attended to promptly. However, in one case as mentioned above, there was delay both in implementing standing instructions as also in responding to the letters of the Hon'ble MP and the complaint was redressed only when the MP brought this to the notice of the Finance Minister. SBI have looked into the delays that occurred in replying to the communications of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and initiated suitable corrective action. Action has also been initiated to avoid such delay in future.

(c) A system has been introduced for making available a senior officer from the Parliament Street Main branch at the Parliament House Sub-Office of the bank once in a week to receive suggestions from Members of Parliament and to effect procedural improvements wherever necessary.

Sitting up of a Radio Station at Melghat

*285. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:

SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a small Radio Station will be set up for broadcasting in the Korbu dialects; in view of the fact that the Korbu tribals who live in the Melghat area in Amravati district of Maharashtra are illiterate but require extensive health education;

(b) whether this will go a long way to prevent further deaths of tribal children, 4500 of whom have died during the last three years; and

(c) if so, what concrete steps will be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) All India Radio Nagpur provides Radio coverage to the entire Amravati district of Maharashtra. A separate Radio Station at Amravati has been envisaged to be set up under IX Plan subject to availability of adequate resources and other infrastructural facilities. Health awareness programmes are regularly broadcast from All India Radio, Nagpur. A folk and tribal music unit has also been sanctioned recently for Nagpur station to take care of the requirements of people speaking in Korku district.